Invitation of IT companies for investment in Germany

†2622. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Germany has invited the Indian Information Technology companies to make investment there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No invitation on an official level has been extended by the German Government to Indian IT companies to invest in Germany. The German Government through its industry associations and economic promotion agencies at the state level is vigorously scouting abroad, besides its green card initiative, among foreign IT companies to set up subsidiaries in Germany.

Special schemes for Inviting Indian IT professionals to work in Germany and availability of an additional 10,000 green cards were announced by German Chancellor Schroder during his recent visit to India.

(b) to (d) As no Government to Government action is involved, it is for the Information Technology Industry to decide.

Confirmation of Postal Employees

†2623. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to confirm some postal employees;

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†. Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The confirmation of Postal employees in different grades is an on going process. The employees on their first appointment are kept on probation. Subsequently they are considered for confirmation after successful completion of probation as per rules.

(b) and (c) Confirmation in a grade is considered as per rules whenever is due. In this regard the Department of Posts follow the instructions of the nodal Department *i.e.* Department of Personnel and Training.

Telecom Services in Ferozepur and Faridkot districts

†2624. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government so far to improve rural telecom services in Ferozepur and Faridkot districts in Punjab;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce mobile telephone services in these districts; and

(c) if so, by when these are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The following steps have been taken to improve the telecome services in the Rural areas of Ferozepur and Faridkot District of Punjab.

(i) All the rural exchanges have been converted to digital exchanges.

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†. Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.